

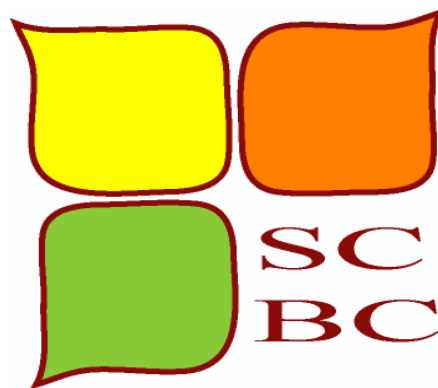
South Carolina Biomass Council Fact Sheet

Quick Facts:

- ♦ The South Carolina Biomass Council (SCBC) was formed to be a technical resource for the SC Biomass Market Development Program, recommend policy, and serve as an advocacy group for biomass utilization.
- ♦ The first SCBC meeting was held on April 21, 2006 at Capitol Center in Columbia.
- ♦ The Chair of the SCBC is Dr. Nick Rigas of the SC Institute for Energy Studies at Clemson University.
- ♦ The SCBC is composed of nearly 40 members and staffed by the SC Energy Office.
- ♦ The SCBC has formed five committees including: 1) solid fuels, 2) liquid fuels, 3) gaseous fuels, 4) other biomass products, and 5) public policy and incentives.
- ♦ The SCBC will build upon the SC Energy Office reports, *South Carolina Biomass Brief* and *Biomass Energy Potential in South Carolina: A Conspectus of Relevant Information*.
- ♦ For more information please visit 'Biomass' at www.energy.sc.gov.

SC Biomass Council Kicks Off Efforts to Increase Renewable Energy

On April 21st, the South Carolina Biomass Council (SCBC) held its inaugural meeting at the Capitol Center in downtown Columbia. Assembled by the South Carolina Energy Office (SCEO) to increase biomass energy and products in South Carolina, nearly forty members and nine SCEO staff comprise the council. The kick-off event was led by SCBC Chair, Dr. Nick Rigas, Director of the SC Institute for Energy Studies at Clemson, SCEO Consultant Mr. Joe James, the CEO of the Corporation for Economic Opportunity, and SCEO Director, Dr. John Clark.



The SCBC established five major committees addressing solid, liquid, and gaseous biomass fuels, public policy & incentives, and alternative biomass products. In addition to SCBC members, other interested individuals will serve on the committees.

The SCBC will work cooperatively with state legislators, biomass producers and users, and other stakeholders to increase awareness and use of biomass energy. South Carolina currently imports 98 percent of its energy and could greatly benefit from producing much more of its own.

According to Joe James, "South Carolina's economy, both rural and urban, its quality of life and the pocketbooks of its citizens can be enhanced by the creative and optimal usage of the state's bountiful biomass resources. The newly formed South Carolina Biomass Council can help make our state among the nation's biomass utilization leaders, particularly in a time of problematic energy prices and availability."

Already, South Carolina produces biodiesel fuel from agricultural products, burns wood waste to produce steam, and collects methane from landfill gas, which is converted to energy by Santee Cooper. According to SCEO Director, John Clark, "The Biomass Council will fill information gaps related to biomass energy production beyond soydiesel and landfill gas. Today, only a tiny fraction of all energy generated in the state is renewable, and it could be far greater."

The objective of the SC Biomass Council is to develop a long term strategy to make biomass energy a feasible large-scale alternative. SCBC Chair, Dr. Nick Rigas, stated, "This council will create a roadmap for biomass utilization in and around the state, because South Carolina needs to diversify its energy base. Bioenergy is one available option, but it will take strong state support, along with the encouragement of the SCBC, to entice investment in new biomass projects across South Carolina."

Before the next scheduled SCBC meeting in September, the five committees will discuss initial work plans. The council plans to operate as long as needed and serve a major role in South Carolina's renewable energy future. For more information about the South Carolina Biomass Council please visit www.energy.sc.gov or contact Mike Hughes at mhughes@energy.sc.gov.

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